

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.15.02 Resolution on Academic Freedom and Civility

BACKGROUND

Chancellor Wise suggested a set of new policies regarding civility and its relationship to expression in a massmail on Friday August 22, 2014 ("The Principles on which we Stand"). The guidelines suggest restrictions on free expression which are reiterated in a massmail (also sent on Friday August 22, 2014) sent by the Board of Trustees, President, Chancellors of the Chicago and Springfield campuses, the Chairman of the University Senates Conference and other administrative officials ("An Atmosphere For Learning"). Although unspecified, the guidelines suggested in the massmails contradict the University of Illinois *Statutes*.

WHEREAS the University of Illinois *Statutes* (Article X Section 2a) state that "It is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage full freedom within the law of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication...", and

WHEREAS the University of Illinois *Statutes* (Article X Section 2b) guarantee that "As a citizen, a faculty member may exercise the same freedoms as other citizens without institutional censorship or discipline", and

WHEREAS the University of Illinois Student Code (Section 1-103 Campus Expression) promises that "Discussion and expression of all views is permitted within the University subject only to requirements for the maintenance of order", and

WHEREAS the Chancellor's massmail "The Principles on which we Stand" of August 22, 2014, makes clear that restrictions will be placed upon the above guaranteed rights of free expression ("What we cannot and will not tolerate at the University of Illinois are personal and disrespectful words or actions that demean and abuse either viewpoints themselves or those who express them"), and

WHEREAS the massmail "An Atmosphere For Learning" of August 22, 2014, signed by the Board of Trustees, President, Chancellors of the Chicago and Springfield campuses, the Chairman of the University Senates Conference, and various high-level administrative officials of the University, asserts that the University administration "must constantly reinforce our expectation of a university community that values civility as much as scholarship",

WHEREAS the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) statement “On Freedom of Expression and Campus Speech Codes” explicitly argues against any restrictions on speech and concludes that free speech “is the very precondition of the academic enterprise itself,”

THEREFORE be it resolved by the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus, that these massmails from the University Chancellors, President, Board of Trustees, Chairman of the University Senates Conference et al. shall have no force with respect to the development, interpretation, or application of university policies and practices.

Respectfully submitted and co-sponsored by:

Dana Rabin, History

Bruce Berndt, Mathematics

Bruce Levine, History

Isabel Molina, Media and Cinema Studies, Latina/Latino Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies

Kristina Riedel, Linguistics

Rolando Romero, Latina/Latino Studies

Gabriel Solis, Music, African American Studies, and Anthropology

Terri Weissman, Art History